



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 18, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill 6888 - An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Public Swimming Pool Design Guideline

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports House Bill 6888 and would like to thank the Public Health Committee for raising this agency bill. The DPH provides the following information in regarding this bill.

The DPH Recreation Program currently reviews the plans for the construction and renovation of all public pools in Connecticut pursuant to the provisions of Section 19-13-B33b(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Such plans are reviewed and approved in accordance with the specifications detailed in the most recent edition of the Connecticut Public Swimming Pool Design Guide (Design Guide). This document is subject to periodic review, and is revised as necessary, to ensure that the guidelines utilized by the agency are consistent with current industry standards for construction as well as making swimming and other water activities healthier and safer.

The DPH makes no changes to the Design Guide without receiving the input of state and local regulators, and industry professionals. These stakeholders review the changes being proposed and offer comment to the agency regarding the appropriateness of those changes. The DPH recognizes the value of the participation of these stakeholders in this process.

The DPH would welcome the opportunity to work with the proponents of this bill to define the term "public pools" and to establish an advisory committee whose members would consult with the agency regarding any revision to the Design Guide.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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